

objected to, and will often be rewarded by the discovery of most interesting paintings and decorations, which have been thus preserved from other injury. Many a fine brass or pavement is concealed by modern pewing, and many a timbered roof by a lath and plaster ceiling. In page 39 *ante*, we took occasion to argue against the use of paint and whitewash on stone, still too prevalent. Much of the beauty, we are able to obtain by well-executed masonry, results from the well-defined forms of the mouldings, and the sharpness of the arrises. The effect of Time is rather to chip out at intervals the soft parts of the stone, than to wear the whole away at an equable rate; the general tendency of the lines is unbroken in the perspective, and the decay rather adds to the impression which results. But the brush of the whitewasher mars all that it passes over: for fillets are substituted rounds, and for mouldings and indents plain faces, while bosses, and similar ornaments become very much like door-handles. To the paint-brush is to be attributed the unsatisfactory result of our modern cement and stucco, scarcely less inferior to well-executed brickwork than to stone, and having for its inevitable consequence a feeling of unsatisfaction at its pretension, and the attempt to deceive. The speedy removal of the whitewash, from which hardly two of our churches are free, is much to be desired, and the work is so easy and inexpensive, and the result, with proper care, likely to prove so very satisfactory, that it ought to be every where proceeded with. The superintendence may, in the greater number of cases, be very safely left to those among the clergy who have attended to the subject of ecclesiastical architecture, and we cannot do better than quote from the "Few Words to Churchwardens," of the Cambridge Camden Society, on the subject. Speaking of the removing of whitewash, it says:—

"This may be most easily done by scraping away the outer surface, and then moistening the part by means of a brush with a mixture composed of one part of sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol), and eight or ten of water, and washing it over with water after every second or third time you put it on, till you see the stone or wood appear. If, however, you wish to remove the whitewash from the remains of a painting on a wall, use soft soap with hot water, and a brush not too hard. This done carefully will not hurt the painting. Paint is harder to get rid of; it may, however, be effectually done with strong soap-maker's lye, or, what is quite as good, the following liquid: put one pound of potash or pearl ash with half a pound of unslaked lime into a jar, and pour over it one gallon of boiling hot rain-water; wash this repeatedly over the surface, scrubbing off the paint as it becomes softened. Or you may try this way: take a quarter of a pound of soda, boil it with a little soap in three pints of water till it comes to a paste, then lay it on what you want to clean pretty thick; two days after lay it on again, without washing the old away; do this four times, and then scrub the whole off, the paint will come off too. This does either for stone or wood."

We suspect that the cleaning of paintings is not quite so simple a matter as it is described above, and it would be better in such points to have competent advice. At North Walsham, Norfolk, a solution of potash and quicklime, in the proportions of one pound of the former and half a pound of the latter to a gallon of boiling water, was used with satisfactory results. The solution, being extremely caustic, should be used with care, and if the external coating of paint which it may be desirable to remove, be thin, diluted with water; and in all cases the solution should be tried upon a small portion of the painted surface. (*Archæological Journal*, vol. I., part 3). Mr. J. G. Waller, in giving his opinion, that the paintings found on the walls of churches, and usually called "fresco," are in reality nothing more than distemper, suggests the use of vinegar for cleaning. It should be carefully applied with a brush, alternately with water. (*Archæological Journal*, vol. I., p. 161).

But we cannot but commend the same useful publication of the Cambridge Camden Society, on the subject of *DAMP*, and the injury, which it causes to the walls, and the stability of the fabric. The numerous interments in the same small patch of ground during a long period,

have raised the earth round the walls of the church considerably above the floor-line, and no remedy is attainable, short of the absolute removal of the nuisance, which is often greatly increased by the drippings from the roof, consequent on the want of proper water-spouts. These should be fixed without delay, and proper drains provided round the whole building. The green mould, which has collected on the inner surface, can then be removed by scraping and washing; and to prevent its reappearance, "mop the walls once or twice well over with a mixture made of one ounce of corrosive sublimate dissolved in a quart of water." To return to the subject of whitewash, we have seen it accumulated so thickly in crevices of ornaments and capitals, that it had to be chiselled away; in such a case it might not be safe to leave the work without close superintendence; and we much fear, if we have to wait till architects are engaged at all our churches, the matter will be postponed longer than is desirable. In the continuation of these remarks, in next week's *BUILDER*, we shall be able to offer suggestions for the accomplishment of the object.

E. H.

MR. EWART'S BILL TO ESTABLISH MUSEUMS OF ART.

WE mentioned some time ago that Mr. Ewart had obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable town-councils to establish museums of art in corporate towns. The following is a copy of the bill, which was introduced accordingly, and has been read a second time:—

"*Preamble.*—*Town-councils may purchase lands, &c.*—Whereas it is expedient to promote the establishment and extension of museums of art in such municipal boroughs as may require the same, for the instruction and amusement of the inhabitants thereof; be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful for the council of any municipal borough to purchase lands, and to erect thereon buildings suitable for museums of art, and to maintain and keep the same in good repair; and to accept any gifts, grants, or devises of lands, tenements, or hereditaments (any statute of mortmain to the contrary notwithstanding), for the purpose of establishing, improving, or maintaining such museums of art; and that the costs and charges of such lands and buildings, and the keeping of the same in good repair, shall be chargeable upon and paid for out of the borough fund of such municipal boroughs: provided always, that for the purposes of this Act no rate greater than a rate of one halfpenny in the pound of the annual value of the rateable property assessed to the borough-rate, shall be levied in any one year.

And Borrow.—And be it enacted, that for the purchase of such lands, and for defraying the costs of such buildings as may be erected thereon, or keeping them in repair, it shall be lawful for the council of any such municipal borough as aforesaid, to borrow at interest the amount of money which may be required for the same, on the security of the said rate, to be levied as aforesaid.

And re-borrow Money.—And be it enacted, that in the event of the said monies so borrowed as aforesaid being repaid, and of funds being again required for carrying out the purposes of this Act, the said council for the time being may again borrow such sum or sums of money as may be so required, and again charge the said rate with the repayment thereof, in manner as aforesaid.

Adjacent Municipal Boroughs may unite for the purposes of the Act.—And be it enacted, that where municipal boroughs shall be adjacent to each other, the councils of such municipal boroughs may unite for the purposes of this Act, and contribute in proportion to their respective assessments, or on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon by the said councils.

Lands, &c., vested in town-councils.—And be it enacted, that the lands and buildings so purchased or erected as aforesaid, and also all specimens of art or science, and articles of every description which may be purchased for

or presented to such museums, and accepted by such councils as aforesaid, shall be held in and held upon trust for ever by the corporations of the said municipal boroughs in which such museums shall be situated, and shall be kept in fit and proper order for the benefit of the public.

Rates of admission to public; and regulations for preserving contents, &c.—And be it enacted, that the council or united councils of any such municipal borough or boroughs may, from time to time, fix such rates of payment for admission to the said museums, as they may think necessary for meeting the cost of their support; provided that such rates of payment shall not exceed the sum of one penny for each person admitted; and that they may also make such regulations for the preservation of the contents of such museums, and for the maintenance of order and decorum within them, as may to themselves seem expedient."

Great praise is due to Mr. Ewart for calling the attention of the legislature to matters of this description. His Bill, if efficiently carried out, will produce most important results, both in a mercantile and moral point of view. Much, however, will depend on the towns themselves, and we shall hope to see corporations bestirring themselves on the subject the moment it becomes an Act.

The *Art-Union* for the present month very properly remarks:—

"We trust that these museums will have departments for local manufactures, so as in the course of time to present important records of their gradual development and improvement. Such a collection exists in the Potteries, the property of a private individual; we hope that it will be acquired for the public before any accident leads to its dispersion. We wish that a similar collection could be made of the designs in calico-printing: some of those produced by the older printers, which we have had an opportunity of examining, are superior to any that are brought out in the present day. This leads us to notice the importance of connecting such museums with schools of design; we must shew the pupils what they are to avoid, as well as what they are to follow. We are the more anxious to direct attention to this subject, because museums have been too often regarded as mere objects of curiosity, destitute of practical value, and only affording opportunities of whiling away idle hours in innocent amusement. Though we are strongly impressed with the necessity of affording opportunities for unobjectionable relaxation to the working classes, we at the same wish the public to know and feel that museums must have a higher and further effect; they must, and they will be, as instructive as they are entertaining; for there is no branch of British industry that may not be profited by the suggestions which collections of works of art afford.

We may also notice the facilities which local museums afford for the collection and preservation of monuments, records, and other memorials connected with local antiquities. The loss to British archaeology, by the destruction of articles affording valuable illustrations of local habits and customs, as well as of local events connected with general history, is incalculable. This destruction has been caused, in some instances, by carelessness, and in others by ignorance; collections, made with great care and expense, have too frequently been dispersed when they fell into the hands of heirs who could not appreciate their worth, or who had no taste for antiquarian pursuits. Local museums will not only afford opportunities for making a collection of such valuable materials for history, but will also induce private collectors to form a proper estimate of their value, and bestow some care on their preservation. Those who have visited the collection of Norman antiquities at Rouen, must have felt anxious that similar care should be bestowed on the collection and preservation of provincial antiquities in Great Britain."

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.

As many days as in one year there be,
So many windows in this church we see;

As many marble pillars here appear

As there are hours throughout the fleeting year:
As many gates as moons one year does view,
Strange tale to tell, yet not more strange than true.

Dr. Heylin.